(b) whether coal washeries under SECL situated at Gevra Dipika, which is a barrel washery, can produce over 65 per cent of ash whether any enquiry into the same has been conducted by any competent authority; and

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal for conducting an enquiry into the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) In January 2007, Coal India Limited (CIL) has issued guidelines that in future, while formulating a Project Report for an opencast mine with a capacity of 2.5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) or more and not linked to a pit head power house, a provision of coal washery, with State of Art Technology so as to yield rejects containing more than 65% ash, must be incorporated.

(b) and (c) There is no coal washery under South-Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) situated at Gevra Dipika which is a barrel washery and which can produce rejects with over 65 per cent of ash. In absence of any barrel washery at Gevra Dipika, the question of conducting an enquiry on this issue does not arise.

Requirement of coal for steel companies

†1806. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of the requirement of coal for steel companies is being met through import;

(b) if so, the quantum of coal imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether desired results have not been achieved inspite of allowing private agencies in coal mining sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps Government are taking to increase the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The quantum of off-take of coking coal by Steel Sector, both imported and indigenous during the last three years is given below:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(figures in million tonnes)

Year	Indigenous (in raw coal terms)	Quantum of coking coal imported	Total
2003-04	16.68	12.99	29.67
2004-05	17.51	16.93	34.44
2005-06	19.66	16.89	36.55

(c) and (d) Government is allocating coal blocks to specified end users to increase coal production from sources other than Coal India Limited. Production from these mines will increase in due course of time as there is a long gestation period in coal production. Meanwhile, CIL has taken following steps to increase coal production:—

(i) 97 mining projects have been undertaken for implementation by CIL during X Plan;

(ii) improvement in equipment utilization;

(iii) timely implementation of projects;

(iv) all new mines are being planned with mechanization;

(v) increasing productivity in both underground and open case mines;

(vi) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

Coal to sponge iron and rerolling mills of Chhattisgarh

†1807. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal provided to sponge iron and rerolling mills of Chhattisgarh by the SECL in the last three years and the number of these mills;

(b) whether these mills are provided coal at a concessional rate;

(c) if not, whether these mills are permitted to purchased coal from private sector coal mines; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.